

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT SDAG Wisnuta, Object 90

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 17 October 1955

NO. OF PAGES 2

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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Open Cast Mining

1. In the extension of the Katzendorf open cast mining area up to Friedmannsdorf and Culmitzsch, the stripping of the topmost overlay has begun, but mining of ore is not expected for some months. In other parts of the Katzendorf area, only Sorte III ore was mined.
2. Work has begun again on the open cast mining site in the wood between Wolfersdorf and Culmitzsch, near Muecke inn. A trench 30 m. deep has been dug and is being enlarged by two excavators working with 8 dump trucks; one more excavator was expected to arrive at the site at the end of July 1955. At the northern edge of the wooded area, an experimental shaft with a small wooden hoisting tower has been built. Ore finds are expected at a depth of 30 - 35 m. in this area.
3. In the Gauern area, about 35 men per shaft, including seven drivers, were employed during July 1955. The ore carted away was Sorte III only and came mostly from large ore dumps, which are now about 40% exhausted. Little ore was actually mined during July.
4. At Stolzenberg, the ore lies about seven meters deep; two excavators and fourteen dump trucks are employed there. Although the ore level proper has not yet been reached, ore of Sorte III is contained in the overlayers. All loaded dump trucks are, therefore, tested for ore, and earth with sufficiently high ore content is unloaded onto ore dumps. Seven dump trucks, with Russian drivers, and one excavator are employed in carting the ore from the dumps to Ronneburg.

Underground Mining

5. Work on the underground collecting stations (Fuellorte) at Paitzdorf continues to be carried out by Object 29. Mining of ore has not yet started.

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6. Over 1,250 workers are now employed at Zentralschacht Schmirchau. Ore of Sorte III and, occasionally, Sorte II is being mined. A connecting line from Ronneburg station to the pit installations is being built. The two new Schachte being built by Object 11 to the east of the main Schacht at Schmirchau are now about 120 m. deep.
7. At Zentralschacht Lichtenberg, the old hoisting tower has been replaced by a new one; ore of Sorte III and, occasionally, Sorte II is being mined. Two new Schachte are being built. One is situated about 300 m. from the old main Schacht in the direction of Lengefeld. It has a large steel hoisting tower and is already 100 m. deep; a road to the Schacht has been constructed. The second new Schacht has been begun about 1,500 m. from the main Schacht in the direction of Lengefeld.

Transport and Dispatch of Ore

8. At Ronneburg loading station during the first three weeks in July, about 55 cars per shift were loaded with ore from Lichtenberg, Schmirchau, and Stolzenberg. In the last week in July, 65 cars per shift were loaded. About 85% of the cars went to Crossen, the remainder to Dresden-Gittersee.
9. Since mid-June, a new ramp has been under construction near the VEB Holzfabrik, Ronneburg.¹ The ramp itself is finished, as is the railway line to it. Ore bunkers and conveyor belts were being installed at the end of July.²
10. About 15 freight cars per shift were loaded with ore at Gauern. Destinations of the cars were Aue, Crossen, or Dresden-Gittersee.
11. About 50 to 55 cars per shift were loaded with ore at Truenzig; destinations were Crossen, Zwickau, Dresden-Gittersee, and Aue.
12. The bus garage at Wolfersdorf has been transferred to Gera-Zwoetsen.

1. Comment: Not listed in available reference works; probably VEB Moebelwerke Ronneburg.

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2. Comment: when the new ramp is completed, the Ronneburg loading station will be capable of handling about 200 cars per day in three shifts. When the new ramp is finished, the ramp in the railway station will no longer be used.

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